

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS—GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 17, 1833.

Referred to the Committee on the Public Lands, and printed by order of the House of Representatives.

Mr. WILDE, from the Committee of Ways and Means, submitted the following

RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

Resolved, That the estimates, documents, and correspondence, transmitted to the Committee of Ways and Means by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, in explanation of the increased appropriations asked for the service of the present year in that department, be printed, and referred to the Committee on the Public Lands, with instructions to inquire and report:

1st. Whether any, and which of the appropriations now asked, and not heretofore made or authorized, are proper to be hereafter provided for, by law; in any and what manner, and for any and what time? and to report the proper bill or bills for that purpose.

2d. What have been the causes of the arrearages of business in the General and other Land Offices; and whether any, and what part of them have arisen, or are likely to increase from unnecessary precipitation in surveying and bringing into market the public lands; excessive appropriations for that purpose; too large allowances to surveyors or others concerned in that service; too minute a division of the lands; the injudicious survey and subdivision of such as are not worth that expense; or any other, and what causes; and what are the appropriate remedies?

3d. Whether any, and what abuses exist in the survey, sale, or entry of the public lands, through defects in the existing laws or otherwise, and what are the appropriate remedies; and, especially, whether any and what further provisions are necessary to insure fidelity, industry, and punctuality, in discharge of the duties of all persons employed in the General and other Land Offices, their clerks and deputies, including the surveyors, their deputies, and the other persons employed by them?

4th. Whether any, and what further provisions are necessary to prevent registers, receivers, and their clerks and deputies, surveyors, and their deputies and clerks, and all other persons employed in the General or other Land Offices, from engaging, or being directly or indirectly interested or concerned in the purchase, sale, or entry of lands, or any interest therein; and to make void all fraudulent deeds and devices by which the laws, in that respect, may be evaded; and that the committee have power to send for persons and papers?

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, January 7, 1833.

SIR: To explain the objects of the following appropriations for the year 1833, for which estimates have been submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury, I have the honor, respectfully, to refer the committee to the following accompanying documents, viz.

Paper marked A will serve to show the items composing the aggregate amount of \$16,158 40, as contingencies for the year 1833, and to cover the deficit in the appropriation of the last year to meet the expenses of that year. It will be perceived that the single item of blank patents, including the printing, covers \$11,858 40, leaving only \$4,300 to cover all other expenses, including 200 books.

I have to assure the committee that the expense of the land office *increases* in a *direct ratio* with the increase of sales and land offices. There are, at present, forty-eight land offices in operation; two, at least, if not three, will be created during the present session, out of the late Choctaw and Chickasaw cessions, and others are contemplated. The expense of getting these offices into operation bears heavily upon this office. The late law authorizing the subdivision of the public lands into quarter-quarter sections has greatly increased the number of patents (two being required for the same quantity of land that a single patent was formerly granted.) Hence the demands of the contingent fund must necessarily be on the increase. It may, moreover, be satisfactory to the committee to be assured that this office obtains all articles of contingencies on the lowest prices that the market affords. The parchment contract is reduced so low as to have rendered it difficult for a long time to find merchants willing to accede to the terms offered by the office. We pay nineteen cents for parchment and printing: fifteen years ago they cost about three times that amount. Such has been the economy exercised in this office, that it is impossible to effect any reduction in the expenses.

In consequence of the deficit of the last year's appropriation, the office has been compelled to obtain from the Branch Bank of the United States an advance of \$2,290, on the faith of an appropriation to cover such deficit.

In reference to the item of surveying expenses, I beg leave to refer the committee to the accompanying paper, marked B, and the copy of the surveyor's estimates (so far as received) accompanying the same paper, marked C.

To explain the submissions for the offices of the Surveyors General, I beg leave to refer the committee to the circular letter from this office, dated 13th September, 1832, to the several Surveyors General, and to their reports in reply thereto, all under the same cover, marked D.

I flatter myself that the surveyors' reports will fully explain the absolute necessity of providing increased means for the surveyors' offices. It has, for years past, been *matter of notoriety* in the several surveying districts, (of which there are now *seven*) that the Government has failed to accomplish the object of the laws of Congress, in having lands brought into market after the surveys have been made, for want of force in the surveyors' offices, by reason of the inadequacy of the appropriation. The public interest and that of individuals, equally demand that those surveys be brought into market. Depredations are constantly being committed on the timber, thereby depreciating, in numerous instances, the value of the land.

After the surveys are completed, it is the duty of the surveyors' offices to

test the accuracy thereof by protraction. Triplicate plats have then to be made out, one for the district land office, one for the General Land Office, and a third for the record in the surveyor's office; the field notes have afterwards to be recorded. A late law of Congress authorizing the subdivision of land into quarter-quarter sections has greatly added to the labors of the surveyors' offices. The old subdivisions have to be disturbed, and new subdivisions have to be made: these new subdivisions have also to be made in triplicate.

The timely and judicious application of small sums might, to a great degree, have prevented the existing embarrassments in the surveyors' offices. There are about 400 townships of land surveyed, which cannot be brought into market for want of more clerks and draughtsmen.

New laws are continually imposing new duties, and taking off the attention of the officers from the mass of arrears, and thereby increasing them.

In addition, I have to urge, as a reason for the necessity of increased expenditure, the fact that the surveyors' offices contain all the *original evidences* of survey. Their offices are any thing but fire-proof, and, if burnt down, all legal evidences of surveys are lost with them. This was the case in Alabama about five years ago: the surveyor's office was destroyed by fire, and probably one-half the evidences of surveys in that State were consumed. To prevent a similar evil, the department is greatly desirous of having authenticated transcripts of the filed notes filed among its own archives; and hence the two objects of bringing up the back work in the surveyors' offices, and the commencing a system of transcribing of the filed notes, are blended together in the estimate; and the reason for blending them was, that all the reports from the surveyors under the circular letter of the 13th September last, were not received in due time, and the estimate was necessarily made without them. Now that they are received, (in part, only, however) I do not see any good reason for making any alteration in what has been estimated.

In reference to the submissions for extra clerk hire in this office, I have to remark that the labors of this office are continually increasing. The aid which those estimates call for will not keep up current business. There are now *forty-five thousand patents to be issued*; before the end of the year there will be *forty-five thousand more*, and there are already *six new land offices*, which the office has no accountant to supervise.

The best idea that can be given of the wants of the office is, the undeniable fact that its concerns with each land and surveying district, to wit: checking the sales of public lands, (that is, keeping an account with each purchaser of public lands;) auditing the accounts of the receivers of public moneys; writing and recording all the various descriptions of patents for public land, private claims and military bounties; issuing military land scrip; preparing connected maps of the public surveys; the immense amount of correspondence with land agents and individuals, demand at least one clerk to supervise the concerns of each land and surveying district, and perform the various duties which are briefly enumerated above. There are at this time fifty-five land and surveying districts, whereas there are only seventeen regular clerks and eleven extras—in all twenty-eight.

In relation to the nature and amount of the arrears of this office, I would beg leave to refer the committee to my reports accompanying the three last annual reports made by the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress.

Being now fully of the opinion that the estimates for extra clerk hire are

far short of the exigency of the public service, and as there are now six land districts without a clerk to superintend them, and there being five or six in contemplation this session, I cannot fail to urge on the committee the necessity of increasing the appropriation of \$7,000 to \$9,000.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient servant,

ELIJAH HAYWARD.

Hon. G. C. VERPLANCK,

Ch. Com. of Ways and Means, H. R.

A.

AN explanation of the estimate of the expenses of the General Land Office during the year 1833, submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury.

		Item, \$16,158 40
Deficit of appropriation for 1832:		
Bartow & Co.'s bill, rendered for 4,680 parchments,	-	655 20
Do. do. for 4,680 parchments,	-	655 20
William J. Stone's bill, for printing 11,600 patents on copper-plate, at 5 cts.,	-	580 00
Cost of printing 9,360 parchments, delivered by the Bartows, as above,	-	468 00
Peter Force's bill for fifty tract books,	-	400 00
Cost of fifty additional tract books, which should have been procured for surveys to be opened in 1832,	-	400 00
		3,158 40

Of this deficit for the past year, the sum of \$2,290 40 have been advanced by the Branch Bank of the United States.

In 1833, 50,000 pieces of parchments are to be paid for during the year. There are *now* 45,000 patents *to be issued*.

Before the end of this year there will be 90,000,	-	7,000 00
Printing 50,000 patents on copperplate, at 5 cts.,	-	2,500 00
For 100 record books for land patents, paper, quills, ink, wafers, blanks for forfeited land scrip, records for military land scrip, binding returns from land offices, miscellaneous records, book cases, desks, carpets for brick floors, printing accounts for advertising land proclamations, printing instructions to the district land offices, and supplying books and blanks for the same, &c. &c. &c.	-	3,500 00

Aggregate, - \$16,158 40

B.

In explanation of the estimate of the expenses of surveying the Public Lands during the year 1833, submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury.

1st. The general item of \$75,000.

This item embraces all the public surveys for which specific objects are not assigned, to wit:

For Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan peninsula, also surveys in Michigan west of the lake, - - - -	\$50,000
For the Territory of Arkansas, - - - -	20,000
For the Territory of Florida, - - - -	25,000
For Louisiana, - - - -	25,000
For Illinois and Missouri, - - - -	26,000
For Mississippi,* balance due on old surveys, - - - -	10,000
For Alabama,* - - - -	5,000

Aggregate, \$161,000

Deduct unexpended balance of former appropriations, 86,000

Leaves, 75,000

In reference to the items for surveying the late Choctaw cession in Mississippi and Alabama, - - - -	75,000
For surveying the late Creek cession in Alabama, - - - -	20,000
For surveying the late Chickasaw cession in Mississippi and Alabama, in case the treaty should be ratified, - - - -	80,000

The committee are respectfully referred to the accompanying copies of the surveyors' estimates.

C.

Copy of Surveyors' estimates for 1833.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Florence, Alabama, November 1, 1832.

SIR: Your letter calling for the usual estimates for surveying the public lands in Alabama, for the year 1833, has been received, and, in answer thereto, I make the following estimates, which may not be precisely correct, but are as nearly so as may be. In the Choctaw country, last ceded, and within the limits of Alabama, there are 3,447 miles of the lines of the surveys. This work has all been done in this year; but, on account of some errors, a small part of it has to be surveyed over again, but which will not produce a material difference in the extent of miles: Whole amount, at four dollars a mile, is \$13,788.

An appropriation was last year made of \$80,000, to be applied to paying for the surveying of this country. Out of that appropriation, I have received \$8,000; the balance of \$5,788 is yet due to the surveyors for that work, and probably may be paid out of the former appropriation. This can be ascertained at the proper department of the Treasury.

* Exclusive of the late Indian cessions.

The survey of the Creek lands is now in progress, and will be completed, in all probability, in the course of this year. The precise contents are not yet known; but it may be estimated that the survey will amount to \$70,000.

An appropriation was made last year for surveying the Creek lands, of 50,000, which will leave a balance of \$20,000 to be raised out of next year's appropriation.

By a treaty lately signed between the United States and the Chickasaws, which is not yet ratified, but, if it shall be ratified by the President and Senate, the Chickasaw nation has ceded all their country east of the Mississippi river, estimated to contain 280 townships, equal to 6,451,200 acres, or 20,160 miles of surveying, at four dollars a mile, will be \$80,640.

If the treaty is ratified, the land will be surveyed in the year 1833; and, although the surveys are to be paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of the same lands, yet the Government will advance it before the sale can take place, subject to be refunded out of the sales of the lands, as is provided for in the treaty.

Recapitulation.

For surveying the Choctaw lands	\$5,788
For surveying the Creek lands	20,000
	<u>\$25,788</u>

If the Chickasaw treaty is ratified, it is estimated that 20 townships of that country will be in Alabama, and 260 townships in Mississippi—in all 280, equal to 20,160 miles, at four dollars per mile . . . \$80,640

I am your obedient servant,

JOHN COFFEE.

T. L. SMITH, Esq., *Register of the Treasury.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Donaldsonville, December, 1832.

Estimate of the amount of Public Lands in the State of Louisiana, to be surveyed in the year 1833.

In the Southwestern District, 1,500 miles of the public lands, at four dollars per mile	\$6,000
In the District north of Red river, 4,000 miles of public lands, at four dollars per mile	16,000
In the Southeastern District, 1,500 miles of public lands, at four dollars per mile	6,000
For surveying private confirmed claims in said district	2,000
	<u>\$30,000</u>

H. B. TRIST, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Washington, Miss. October 20, 1832.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 11th ultimo, requesting an estimate of the expenditures which may be necessary for this office for the year 1833, I have to state that, for surveying in the late Choctaw cession, there was, last session of Congress, appropriated 80,000 dollars. Of this sum, I learn, from General Coffee, that 13,500 dollars may be required for that part of the late Choctaw cession within Alabama, leaving for Mississippi 66,500 dollars.

The contracts for surveying already amount to about 70,500 dollars; which contracts were made, under the belief that the whole 80,000 dollars were applicable to surveys within Mississippi, as expressed in the law.

This will show a deficit to meet the contracts of	\$4,000
Balance to complete the surveys of the late Choctaw cession,	
over the 70,500 dollars, which may be required in the en-	
suing year	65,500
To complete a few unfinished townships of the Choctaw district,	
and correct erroneous surveys, and supply defects in the sur-	
veys of the districts west of Pearl river	5,000
To settle accounts for surveying in Louisiana, and recording	
done by one of the late principal deputies, which accounts are	
not yet adjusted, say	15,000
For salary of the surveyor south of Tennessee	2,000
For salary of two clerks as usual	1,700
For salary of three extra clerks to keep up the recording, and	
gradually bring up that which is several years in arrears, at	
800 dollars each	2,400
For record books, and other necessary contingent expenses	500
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	<u>\$96,100</u>

If the Chickasaw country should be obtained, and the Government desire it, there may be one hundred townships surveyed of that country, which, at four dollars per mile, and allowing for traverse of water courses, will require three hundred dollars on an average for each township, making 30,000 dollars, which, added to the above, will make the entire sum 126,100 dollars.

With great respect,

GIDEON FITZ,

Surveyor of Public Lands south of Tennessee.

T. L. SMITH, Esq.,

Register of the Treasury United States.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

St. Louis, November, 1832.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th of September last, was received in due time, and, in compliance therewith, I submit the following estimate of the expenses of this office, during the year 1833, viz.

Surveying 7,700 miles of public lands, at 3 dollars per mile . . . \$23,100

Surveying the common field lots, and the out-boundaries of the commons of the several towns and villages in Missouri, and for surveying and resurveying confirmed private land claims, say 500 miles, at 3 dollars per mile	\$1,500
Postage on letters and packages received at, and sent from this office, on public business	300
Stationery, including platting instruments, and binding books of plats, &c.	600
Office rent	180
Fuel	75
Office furniture	100
Salary of the principal surveyor	2,000
Salary of three clerks	2,000

And if the allowance for extra clerks, which has been recommended to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, should receive the sanction of Congress, the following additional appropriation will be required, viz.

Extra clerks	\$,900
Additional office rent	120
Additional cost of fuel	75
Additional stationery, and platting instruments	800
Additional office furniture	150

Also, if this office is authorized to employ, on particular occasions, (as has been recommended,) a deputy surveyor, at a per diem allowance, for the execution of such portions of the surveys as cannot be done for the present compensation, there may be required for that purpose

1,500

\$36,400

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. LANGHAM.

To T. L. SMITH, Esq.,

Register of the United States' Treasury, Washington City.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Little Rock, A. T., October 20, 1832.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th ultimo, requesting estimates for the year 1833, has been received, and I have the honor, herewith, to transmit said estimates, under the heads that follow, viz.

For surveying public lands	\$25,000
For salary of Surveyor General	1,500
For salary of draughtsman and clerks	1,800
For furniture for surveyor's office, viz. writing-desks and tables, book-cases, chairs, &c.	200
For blank books and stationery	150
For postage	50
For printing	100

For house rent and fuel	\$200
For transporting from St. Louis to Little Rock, the books, papers, documents, &c., which relate to the surveys in the Territory of Arkansas	150
For Surveyor General's services or mileage, travelling to, and returning from, St. Louis; in procuring, and having transported to Little Rock, the books, papers, documents, &c., which relate to the surveys in the Territory of Arkansas	128
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	\$29,278

Making an aggregate of twenty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-eight dollars.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. CONWAY.

T. L. SMITH, Esq.,

Register United States' Treasury, Washington City.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Cincinnati, November 7, 1832.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th September was duly received, and, in compliance with your request, I herewith have the honor to submit the following estimates for this surveying department for the year 1833:

For surveying the public lands in the Michigan Territory, west of Lake Michigan, for contracts now existing	\$20,000	
For other surveys in Ohio, Indiana, and the peninsula of Michigan	5,000	\$25,000
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For salary of Surveyor General	2,000	
For salary of three clerks as heretofore	2,100	
For salary of additional clerks required by the state of the office	2,000	
	<hr/>	6,100
For stationery and postage		500
		<hr/>
		\$31,600

Prospective estimates made by this office must necessarily be uncertain, as it cannot be known what surveys the Government may order to be made within the next year. If further surveys be ordered to be made within the year 1833, in the territory west of Lake Michigan, which is probable, an additional sum, to cover such surveys, will be required.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

M. T. WILLIAMS.

THOMAS L. SMITH, Esq., *Register Treasury.*

D.

Copies of Reports from the Surveyors General, in reply to the annexed copy of a Circular Letter, bearing date 13th September, 1832, which are furnished to the committee with a view to explain the submissions for increased clerk hire in the surveyors' offices.

CIRCULAR TO SURVEYORS GENERAL.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

September 13, 1832.

SIR: I have to request that you will furnish to this office, in time to be submitted to Congress, at an early period of the ensuing session, a report by land districts, detailing under specific heads, as far as practicable, the nature and amount of arrears of the different the work of your office

1st. The number of townships surveyed, the field notes of which remain to be tested by actual protraction, and the time which will be required to protract the same with your present force.

2d. The arrears in furnishing copies of township plats and descriptive notes both to this office and the district land offices, with the time required to do the work with your present force.

3d. The arrears in recording plats, with the time required to perform the work with your present force.

4th. The arrears in recording filed notes, with the time required to perform the work with your present force.

5th. The number of clerks which would be requisite to bring up all the arrears in two years, were it practicable for so great a number to be employed at one time.

6th. The number of clerks that could be most usefully employed, at one time, with their respective compensations, classed according to the duties to be performed, &c.

7th. The amount of house rent and fuel which would be required, (in case Congress should make an appropriation for those objects) in the event of your being authorized to engage as many clerks as you could advantageously employ at one and the same time.

Intending to submit to Congress the propriety of so altering the law regulating the public surveys, as to require the surveyors to furnish with the township plats, to this office and to the district land offices, copies of the *field notes*, instead of the *descriptive notes*; and also the propriety of transcribing *all the field notes* of the public surveys now extant, in order that authenticated copies thereof may be preserved at the seat of Government I will thank you to render a separate estimate of the amount of labor to be performed, in order to effect that object, and of the time, number of clerks, and also the amount of expenditure, that would have to be incurred in so doing.

I am, &c.

ELIJAH HAYWARD.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,
St. Louis, 12th November, 1832.

SIR: In answer to the latter part of your letter of the 13th of September last, I have to inform you that it is estimated, to transcribe all the field notes of the surveys now extant in Illinois and Missouri, to be furnished the General Land Office, would require about 8,500 days' labor; which, allowing 300 working days to the year, and an annual compensation of \$600 to the clerks employed, would cost \$17,000, exclusive of additional office rent, fuel, and stationery, which would perhaps be \$1,060; making a total of \$18,000. It is however recommended that this business should not be commenced until the field notes are recorded in this office, and properly indexed.

To furnish the General Land Office and the district land offices with copies of the field notes in lieu of descriptive lists of the township to be surveyed in future, would require an additional labor, proportioned to the quantity of surveys that may be executed in any one year; and as there are but few surveys that will be returned to this office before the latter part of next year, no appropriation will be required for that purpose at the ensuing session of Congress: but if it is intended to furnish the notes of the townships—the plats of which have not yet been sent to the district land offices—three additional clerks, at a compensation of \$600 each, per annum, will be required.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. LANGHAM.

TO ELIJAH HAYWARD, Esq.,

Com'r of the Gen. Land Office, Washington city.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

St. Louis, 12th November, 1832.

SIR: I received in due time your letter of the 13th of September, of the present year, and herewith submit the following statements, in answer thereto, viz.

1. There are no recent surveys in this office, the field notes of which require to be tested by actual protraction or otherwise; but circumstances which will be developed in an after part of this communication, show that, to put the affairs of the office in proper order, this will be no small item in the catalogue of duties to be performed.

2. This office has not sufficient data, to answer with precision what are the arrears in furnishing the plats and descriptive notes to the General Land Office, and to the registers' of the several land offices, as the record evidences thereof commences only with the latter part of the year 1824. It is expected, however, that of the surveys in Illinois and Missouri, the plats have mostly been furnished to the General Land Office, and that the arrears to the registers are about 400 townships and fractional townships, the plats of which, on file in this office, are unauthenticated, and ought, with few exceptions, to be constructed (or protracted) a-new from the field notes,

and examined thereby, before copies are prepared for the land offices; which will require about 800 days' labor; to make and compare a copy of each, for the registers, will require, say 400 days' labor; and to complete and compare the descriptive notes, will require about 400 days' labor; making a total of 1,600 days' labor, to bring up the arrears of this branch of business.

To furnish the registers with copies of the mutilated plats of townships heretofore offered for sale, will require about 1,000 days' labor.

3. There has been surveyed, in Illinois and Missouri, townships and fractional townships equal to about 2,204 whole townships, of which the plats of only ninety townships, and thirteen fractional townships, have been recorded, (and which record is not authenticated); leaving townships and fractional townships equal to about 2,108 whole townships, of which the plats have not been recorded: and as but few of those on file are authenticated, it is thought advisable to recommend that an entire new set be constructed, on suitable paper, from the field notes, and examined and properly authenticated, previous to putting them on record; except those in the Kaskaskias district, and some of the old surveys in the Howard and western districts, of which there are duplicates, and sixty townships in the Shawnee town districts, of each of which there is one copy that have lately been constructed, but not examined and authenticated; and excepting also a few others, which have of late years been made, in conformity with the present regulations of the department at Washington city. To construct a-new from the field notes such of the plats as it is deemed necessary and proper, exclusive of those townships not yet furnished the registers, and already estimated for, and also those which have lately been constructed, as before stated, will require about 4,000 days' labor: to examine the same, and those which have already been constructed, and make the required corrections, will be about 2,000 days' labor: to record the whole of the said plats, and examine the record, will be about 4,000 days' labor.

4. A small portion of the field notes in the Kaskaskias, Shawnee, and Danville districts, but none in any of the other of the land districts, have been recorded. It is recommended that the whole be recorded with as little delay as practicable, for many of the notes of the old surveys are in a perishable condition, being, in numerous instances, nearly illegible on account of the indifference of the ink and paper, which are decaying with evident rapidity, and, if much longer delayed, will be a serious loss to the public. To record and examine the whole of the field notes, except those already recorded, to examine the record, and to make proper indexes thereto, it is estimated will require nine thousand days' labor.

5. According to the foregoing estimates, it will require thirty-six clerks to bring up the arrears of the office, and place the documents therein in proper order, in two years, allowing 300 working days to the year; and although it is practicable, yet it is not thought advisable to employ so great a number at one time.

6. In addition to the clerks allowed by law, and now engaged in this office, six others might be usefully employed at one time, viz. three draughtsmen, at \$700 each per annum, and three recording clerks at \$600 each.

7. Should Congress make an appropriation for those objects, and allow six additional clerks, the office rent would then be about \$300, and the fuel would cost about \$150 per annum.

The latter part of your letter, requiring a *separate estimate* of the amount of labor to be performed in order to furnish the General Land Office with

copies of all the field notes of the public surveys now extant, and to furnish the district land offices, and the General Land Office, with copies of the field notes, instead of descriptive lists, will be the subject of another communication by this day's mail.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. T. LANGHAM.

P. S. The press of business in conducting the ordinary operations of this office has presented as minute an examination of the papers thereof as is desirable, and as would have been made under different circumstances; but it is confidently believed that the most scrutinizing inspection would vary the general result but little. And it may be proper to remark that, in estimating the time required to perform the different portions of labor, a liberal course was pursued, so as to be sure of not making an under calculation. Therefore, whatever errors may be found will, it is expected, invariably lessen the foregoing estimate, but not to any considerable extent.

To ELIJAH HAYWARD, Esq.,

Com'r of the Gen. Land Office, Washington city.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Washington, Miss., October 24th, 1832.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I have to state that there are about 400 townships in the old land districts of this State, of which the field notes are not recorded. The clerks here estimate the recording of field notes, of three per week for one clerk, as being sufficient, which would require the services of two clerks one year and a half nearly.

The contracts for surveying the late Choctaw cession amount to about \$70,000; and allowing that each township, on an average, may require \$300, the number of townships will be, say 234, which, at three per week, will require one clerk to record the field notes one year and a half. These two objects will occupy three extra clerks one year and six months.

The two clerks provided for by law, with the Surveyor General, then may be able to prepare the township maps, record them, and furnish copies for the General Land Office and land offices, respectively.

It is proper to remark, that clerks, who are mere copyists, would be of but little use in copying or recording the old surveys. The papers will require arranging, and notes for the government of the copyist, which will require the attention of the Surveyor General frequently, or a practical experienced surveyor. Under these circumstances, I am induced to recommend the employment of only three extra clerks, at \$800 each. If it should be determined to have all the field notes copied out of the record books, as well as those which have not been recorded for the General Land Office, then two or three more clerks could be employed, as they could copy from the record books without much attention.

The correspondence between this office and the General Land Office should be recorded; as yet there has not been time to spare for this object. The accounts, too, should be recorded in full, rather than put them on file: papers on file are liable to be misplaced and lost. There has always been too much service required from this office by the Government to be properly performed by the number of clerks employed.

My estimate furnished to the Register of the Treasury for the year 1835, will show you what surveying is contemplated for the ensuing year with the approbation of the Government, and the expenditures to accomplish it. A copy is enclosed, dated the 20th instant.

As to office rent, it may be reasonable to estimate it at \$180 per annum, or more: if several clerks should be employed, it will require more room than we have at present. The office I now occupy is at a lower rate, but that is because there is very little den. and for house room, and it is not large enough for more clerks than are now employed.

As to fuel, I presume that eight cords of wood will be sufficient for one fire place, and four fire-places would not be too much for the number of persons to be conveniently situated, which, at \$3 per cord, would amount to \$96 per annum. These expenses should, in justice, be defrayed by the public, and not out of the surveyor's salary. His expenses of living are unavoidably very considerable in a southern country; his services are very laborious and responsible.

The copying of field notes requires, say at least double the time that copying of descriptive notes of a township would require.

With great respect,

GIDEON FITZ,

Surveyor of Public Lands S. of Tennessee.

ELIJAH HAYWARD, Esq.

Com'r of the General Land Office.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Florence, Alabama, 29th November, 1832.

SIR: In answer to your circular letter of the 13th September last, I make the following estimate and report, to wit: That part of the Choctaw country lately ceded to the United States, which lies in the State of Alabama, has been surveyed and returned to this office. It contains sixty-three townships and fractional townships; thirty-nine of which lie in the St. Stephen's land district, and twenty-four in the Tuscaloosa land district; none of which have as yet been protracted or copied in this office.

That part of the Creek country lately ceded to the United States within the limits of Alabama, has much of it been surveyed, and returned to this office, and the whole survey will be completed, and returns made, by the last of this year. It is estimated to contain two hundred and seventy-seven townships and fractional townships, to wit: 165 in the Tallapoosa district, and 112 in the Coosa land district, making in the whole, as before stated, 277 townships and fractional townships; none of which have been protracted or copied in this office.

Recapitulation.

St. Stephen's land district,	39 townships and fractions.
Tuscaloosa do	24 do do
Tallapoosa do	165 do do
Coosa do	112 do do

Total 340 townships and fractional townships; all of which have to be protracted, and two copies each of the town-

ship plats and descriptive notes to be made for the General Land Office and the registers' offices.

With the present force in this office, it will require four and a half years, and perhaps five years, to perform the above work, including the various incidental duties of the office.

To bring up all the arrears of work in this office, including the above work, within two years, it will require the aid of four additional clerks, one of which must be a good draughtsman, to work under the directions of the present draughtsman, whose qualifications will enable him to direct and instruct the young draughtsman, and perform his own duties also, but who ought to be compensated for such additional service and labor. In the event of thus pressing the business of the office, the labors of the present draughtsman and clerk will become laborious and increased, and therefore, in justice, their salaries should be raised to one thousand dollars each. I would propose an appropriation as follows:

For salary of principal clerk	1,000
of principal draughtsman	1,000
for four clerks, each 625	2,500
Additional office rent per year	100
Fuel per year	40
	<hr/>
	4,640
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To make a complete copy of all the field notes of the surveys in the State, and furnish one copy thereof to the General Land Office, and to the register's offices, it is presumed would require the labor of the foregoing force two years over and above the time to perform all the duties in the ordinary way, as at present practised.

I have no correct data from which to make a correct estimate of the time to perform the service, as required in your letter first alluded to, but presume the foregoing is, as near as may be, a reasonable allowance for the labor required.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN COFFEE.

The Hon. ELIJAH HAYWARD,

Commissioner General Land Office,

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Cincinnati, November 13, 1832.

SIR: In compliance with the requests of your circular letter of the 13th September last, I have the honor of submitting the following statements: The nature and amount of the different arrears of work in this office separated by land districts, being fully set forth in my communication to you of the 8th October, 1831, up to that date, I beg leave to refer you to that communication for an answer to that portion of your inquiries; and to add further:

1. The field notes returned to this office are regularly tested by protraction soon after their reception. Under this head there are no arrears of work in this office, with the exception of the notes of a few townships recently received.

2. There are no arrears in furnishing *copies of township's plats* either to the General Land Office, or to the district land offices. There are due to the General Land Office *copies of descriptive notes* of eighteen townships; (see my letter of the 3d August last;) to the land office at Detroit, fourteen townships, and to that at White Pigeon sixty-four townships. These items of arrears have accrued by reason of the subdivision of fractions required by the provisions of the act of the fifth April last.

3. Referring to the amount of arrears up to the present moment, I am of opinion that *five* additional clerks for two years would be required to bring up the work of the office; but this is too great a number to be advantageously employed at the same time.

4. *Two*, or at farthest *three*, additional clerks might be advantageously employed at the same time. Their salaries should be about \$700 each for two of them, and \$600 for the third.

5. For office rent and fuel there should be about \$150 appropriated additional.

6. Upon a careful examination of the subject, I find there are in Ohio, of surveyed townships and fractional townships, about

In Indiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	830
Michigan Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	853
							500

Total number of surveyed townships	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>2,183</u>
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This number is exclusive of the field notes of private claims. Estimating that to copy and compare the field notes of one township, including the notes of the exterior lines and the meanders, will require the labor of a clerk *one and a half days*, it follows that it will require ten years, $\frac{27}{360}$ of a year, for one clerk to make copies of all the field notes in this office, exclusive of the notes of the private claims.

A clerk competent to make fair and accurate copies of field notes may be employed for a salary of about six hundred dollars per annum.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. T. WILLIAMS.

ELIJAH HAYWARD, Esq.

Com'r Gen. Land Office.

LAKE JACKSON, November 26, 1832.

SIR: In reply to your circular of the 13th September last, I beg leave to state that, as far as the feeble state of my health has permitted, I have carefully examined the same.

For the ordinary business of the office, the duties should be divided, or classed, into three parts, giving an equal portion to each, as near as may be. First, a person to make calculations, exclusively, of the contents of sections, fractions, and private claims, and to examine the protractors, &c. Secondly, a draughtsman, to make out three fair plats of each township plat, three fair copies of each private claim, &c.; and a third clerk, to attend to making out three fair copies of the field notes, making out accounts, &c.; which three are indispensable. The duties of the draughtsman, at this time, far exceeds the other duties.

In proportion as the surveys advance to the East, so in proportion will difficulties increase, owing to the intervention of private claims, and the consequent additional labor required on each township plat, more than formerly.

In relation to the eastern land district of Florida, there remain, under the last contract, two townships to be finished, and it will take about six days to complete them. In the western land district, there remain, under the last contract, three townships to be completed, and it will take about six days to complete them also.

There remain under old contracts in said districts twenty-three townships that have been suspended, which will take about three months to be completed.

The answers to the 2d, 3d and 4th queries are included in the above.

In answer to the 5th query, it will require, exclusive of the three above named, the services of two first-rate calculators for fractions, sections, private claims, and to subdivide and lay down the lots in fractions. Two first-rate draughtsmen to make three fair copies of each township plat and private claim; and two eligible clerks to take copies of all the field notes heretofore surveyed, to be filed in the General Land Office; making, in all, nine clerks who could thus be advantageously employed at one and the same time.

Answer to the 6th query. The clerks' salaries, agreeably to the above arrangement, should be as much, if not more, than any in the surveying department in the United States, because their duties are equal to, if not more arduous than, those of any other officer in the United States; but, agreeable to the present salaries, the seven first named should be allowed a compensation of \$1,000 each, and the others 800 or \$1,000 each.

Answer to 7th query. House rent, fuel, tables, instruments, &c. and stationery, would require from 1,000 to \$1,200, for the two years.

Recapitulation.

One additional clerk, to perform the ordinary business for two years, from the 1st January, 1833, - - -	2,000
Two calculators, to bring up arrears on old surveys, - - -	4,000
Two draughtsmen, do. do. - - -	3,200
House-rent, fuel, desks, copying, glasses, &c. &c. - - -	1,200
Two years' salary of the present two clerks, - - -	2,000
Two years' salary of the surveyor general, - - -	4,000
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The whole expenditure for salaries, exclusive of surveying, - - -	\$20,400
Deduct for salary of the surveyor general and his two clerks, as now allowed by law, - - -	6,000
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This amount required to bring up arrearages in said time, - - -	14,400
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In conclusion, I would beg leave further to state that, should those additional duties be imposed on the office, the Surveyor General ought, consequently, be allowed an additional salary of \$500, during the above two years alluded to.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours, &c.

ROBERT BUTLER.

ELIJAH HAYWARD, Esq.

Comm'r of the Gen. Land Office,

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Washington, D. C.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
January 14, 1833.

SIR: Among the reasons urged in my communication to you on the 7th instant, in support of the estimates of the department for increased clerk hire in the offices of the Surveyors General, I omitted, in the hurry to bring that communication in due time before the committee, to mention an important item of the duty of the Surveyors General, which does not come properly under the denomination of arrears of current duties, but to perform which will necessarily tend greatly to divert their attention from those arrears. It is the constant demands on their time and attention to renew the township plats of the old districts.

On these plats are marked all the indications of sales, forfeitures, relinquishments, and re-sales of each particular tract of land. The plats are made out on paper, and not on parchment, as would be desirable. The plats of the old credit system districts have all become so defaced as to require renewal. and even in many of the districts which have been put in operation within the last twelve years, a renewal of the plats wholly or partially is required. The plats are liable, by law, to be inspected by each land purchaser, and it may readily be conjectured that the constant handling of them by all descriptions of persons must necessarily mutilate them in a few years. The operation of the late pre-emption laws has, within three years, greatly tended to the injury of those plats by the wear and tear produced by the incessant references.

It is a fact well known to this office, that, in some districts, the land officers cannot with certainty sell land in consequence of the great difficulty of discriminating between the vacant and sold lands by reason of the defacement of the plats; and although instructions have been repeatedly given to the Surveyors General to remove the difficulty by renewing the plats, yet the department has been unable to accomplish the object for want of means in the surveyors' offices.

From these causes, as may readily be imagined, it frequently occurs that lands are erroneously sold, and the *only effectual* checks to prevent the erroneous issuing of patents are found in the *tract books of this office*.

The detection of such errors, and the correspondence necessary to their correction, impose much labor both on this office and that of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is authorized by law to direct the correction of errors made at the land offices.

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELIJAH HAYWARD.

Hon. G. C. VERPLANCE,

Ch. Com'tee of Ways and Means, Ho. of Rep's.